

JUNE MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

For those of you that read the Message From The Commander, I am sorry about the lack of an April and May message. In April I took a long trip in my motor home to San Diego with my RV Group. Except for a couple of minor glitches, and both my wife and I getting sick, we had a pretty good time. In May my wife and I rotated through doctor's offices trying to get well.

July 1 is the end of my first year as your commander. I want to thank all of the members and staff for the great support that I have received from you. Not being a pilot, myself, had me a little worried that I wouldn't be able to relate to such a highly professional group such as Black Sheep Senior Squadron.

Staff

We have a couple of staff positions open. I need a Professional Development Officer, and a public Affairs Officer. **Major Jon Caples** moved up to wing to be the wing Stan/Eval Officer and **Lt Col Bob Beabout** has now moved to his position.

Membership

We have had a number of visitors, who have shown an interest in joining, But in May we lost 6 members. We are at 71 members.

OPS/ES

Although the Group 1, Buckley SAREX, sponsored by the Black Sheep Senior Squadron, was at the end of May, I would like to say a few words about it. My thanks go out to all that participated. We really struck gold in training members to use the Satellite Digital Imaging System (SDIS). Most of the sorties included producing pictures from these sorties. Thanks to **1Lt Mikhail Belov** who set up the SDIS Training.

I especially want to thank **Lt Col Bob Beabout**, who took on most of the heavy preparation for the SAREX. He was involved in preparing the CAPF 10 to get the mission number, in getting participants access to the base, setting up the training room in the hanger, and best of all getting us access to the mess hall (excuse me, what I meant to say was dining facility). He also organized the flight schedules. In addition to the kudos for Bob, I want to thank **Lt Col Bob Machacek**, from Jefferson County Senior Squadron, who preformed the duties of Incident Commander in an exemplary manner. Working with **Lt Col Beabout**, **Lt Col Machacek** wrote the Incident Command Plan (ICP), the After Action Report, and set up the network for using the new EMU program.

Wearing my other hat as Assistant Finance Officer for Mission Reimbursements, I found a few problems with the paperwork. In addition to the computer entries into the EMU system, it is important that all members, attending the mission, sign in on the hard copies for members and vehicles. Generally, I would not get the EMU printouts to complete the mission reimbursement forms so I need something to show that you attended and in what vehicle you arrived. This is so that when you send in your reimbursement request I can check that you were there. Also know your license number. On the CAPF 108 that you submit for vehicle reimbursement, you need to put in the vehicle mileage and ensure that the original fuel receipt is attached.

TRAINING

The staff and I discussed the need to continue aircrew training. We decided to do another scanner class, inviting wing personnel this time. The messages went out to our members first and to the wing at the end of June. The next scanner class will be on 16 July at Buckley. We are submitting the request for flight sorties, but if we can't get it there are two SAREX's, Group 2 and Group 3, in Aug where you may be able to pick up the flight time.

Col Jim Cooksey has been working pretty hard as the Operations Training Officer. He is taking care of Level 1 training, AFIADL (ECI) 13 training, and the Aircrew training. If you need any of the training please contact him and get on his schedule.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At this time we do not have a PDO. **SM Tim O'Brien** a new member, that transferred in, volunteered, but was transferred out again by his company.

Even though it is the job of the Personnel Officer and the Professional Development Officer to provide promotion inputs, it is always the members job to keep track to make sure that they are promoted when they are eligible. Check your records against CAPR 50-17 and CAPR 35-5 to see if you are ready for promotion. If you think you are, contact me and I will check it out.

Norman G. Kholos
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Commander
Black Sheep Senior Squadron